

Darke County Junior Fair Sheep Committee
September 28, 2025 7 PM
Minutes

Committee Members Present: Emily Williams, Jennifer Sachs, Josh Sargent, Sarah Drew, Kierra Reichert, Chuck Willcox, Vickie Willcox, Denice McDade, and Kim Amspaugh

Jr. Fair Board Representatives Present: Isabella Bunting

Guests: Bob Peters, Sara Menzie, Daryl Goodwin, and Betsy Petitjean

Meeting called to order by Chuck Willcox at 7 p.m.

Officer Reports:

- Secretary Report: Motion to approve past meeting minutes from June 8th, 2025 by Vickie Willcox, seconded by Sarah Drew.
Motion carried

- Treasurer Report: Checking account balance - \$1,358.03
Savings account balance - \$3,600.77
Scholarship fund - \$4,845.67 (\$875 in donations are coming in from the 2025 auction)
Motion to accept treasurer's report by Denice McDade, seconded by Josh Sargent.
Motion carried

Committee Reports:

- **Rules** - Nothing was brought to the rules committee at the 2025 fair
- **Sale Committee** - 2025 sale checks will not be mailed this year, as they will be distributed at the fairgrounds with the intention of having the checks ready for pickup around the end of October/beginning of November. Pick-up dates will be advertised on Facebook. Kids can pick up their own checks, but they can't pick up their siblings. Sales money from buyers is coming in at a decent pace. Sale numbers were up in 2025. Discussion of how people were upset with the way the "Celebration of Achievements" went, with the way the auctioneer handled multiple buyers and not allowing buyers to bid as high as they would have potentially liked to.
- **Scholarship** - Two scholarships were awarded at the 2025 fair, totaling \$1,600. Scholarship fund donations were down across the entire fair in 2025. Discussion of how the committee needs to encourage people to apply for the sheep scholarship, as there are kids eligible to apply who aren't applying.

- **Skillathon** - 2025 sheep skillathon went well, except for the fact that we need more volunteers to assist in the future to keep kids moving through the skillathon at a smooth pace. The skillathon committee will work on creating better tie breakers, mixing up some of the skillathon stations, and including questions about scrapie (Ex. What is scrapie? What do the numbers/letters on a scrapie tag mean?), all for the 2026 skillathon, while ensuring the test questions can all be found in the study guide that is published or the sheep resource book. The 2026 sheep skillathon will be offered on Tuesday, June 30th, from 6 pm - 8 pm, and Saturday, July 18th from 9 am - 11 am, with locations TBD.
- **Tagging** - It was said that 840 tags will be used in 2026, and they should be the same price at \$3 per tag. 2026 sheep tagging will be offered on Saturday, May 2nd, from 9 am - 11 am, and Tuesday, May 5th, from 6 pm - 8 pm, with the location to be at the south end of the fairgrounds, same as in 2025.
- **Awards Committee** - Announced that a sponsorship sheet was passed around at the 2025 fair to sponsors, and it was confirmed that almost all of the awards were covered for the 2026 fair. There were even enough sponsors that stepped up that we will be able to do awards for each age for “Outstanding Breeding Exhibitor.” The sponsors of these awards will be invoiced in the January/February time frame in 2026. It was mentioned by sheep exhibitors at the 2025 fair that they really enjoyed the buckles along with the metal signs they received.

Motion to accept all the committee reports was made by Josh Sargent, seconded by Jennifer Sachs.

Old Business:

A. Sound System in the Sheep Barn

- Sufficient funds were pledged to fully fund the sound system project in the sheep barn when funds were asked to be pledged at the beginning/middle of 2025. The project was brought up to the Senior Fair Board for permission, and they decided against moving the project forward. After the 2025 fair, it was decided that the sound system still needs to be replaced. Chuck Willcox is going to bring up the issue at the Senior Fair Board at their November meeting.

New Business:

A. 2025 Fair Review:

- A discussion was held about the 2025 fair. It was determined that the 2025 fair went well overall in the sheep barn. Some room for improvement can be made in the following areas: posting classes sooner for the different shows as early as possible to keep everyone updated earlier, and having the weight slips handed out

earlier, improving the weight slips to meet the needs of the open class and jr fair departments to avoid confusion with people putting different names on the same entries in each of the two departments and to hopefully be easier for people to fill out, and designating 2 pens in the sheep barn for grand and reserve of the jr. show after the show to allow for open show people to come in to the fair. Vickie Willcox will come up with a draft of the 2 new open class and jr. fair weight slips to be presented to the committee, and someone on the committee will create a guide to fill out these 2 new weight slip cards that will be provided at the 2026 fair. It was also brought up that the sheep pens need to be replaced. Denice McDade is going to get quotes from Doug Schmitmeyer with “Stillwater Welding” and report back to the committee.

B. Check-In Papers for Breeding Sheep

- Discussion was held on some issues at the 2025 fair with breeding sheep tags not exactly matching the registered papers. It was mentioned that the tag needs to match the papers exactly for them to be eligible for the show. It was decided to table the discussion on this topic till the next meeting.

C. Joint Open Show with Goat Department

- Denice McDade brought up that the goat committee asked if the sheep department would want to come together and have an open show in 2026 during the July 4th weekend. The potential date would be on Sunday, July 5th, 2026, and be held at the Darke County Fairgrounds. Denice reported that the goat committee made good money from this open show in 2025, along with the small concession stands they had at the show. After some discussion, a lot of people from the sheep committee would be out of town during this time in 2026, and didn't want to commit to this show when we wouldn't have the help around to execute a successful joint show.

D. Election of 2025 - 2026 Officers & Sub-Committees

- Chuck Willcox motioned to keep the same officers from the 2024-2025 year, seconded by Kim Amspaugh
- 2025-2026 officers and report committees will be as follows:
 - ~President: Chuck Willcox
 - ~Vice President: Josh Sargent
 - ~Treasurer: Vickie Willcox
 - ~Secretary: Kierra Reichert
- Sarah Drew motioned to keep the same sub-committees from the 2024-2025 year, except Isabella Bunting, now being on all the committees that apply as the jr. fair board representation, seconded by Josh Sargent

- 2025-2026 Sub-Committees will be as follows:
 - ~Sale: Chuck, Emily, & Isabella (Jr. Fair Rep)
 - ~Tagging: Chuck, Vickie, Jennifer, Josh, Kobe, & Isabella (Jr. Fair Rep)
 - ~Rules: Kierra, Josh, Isabella (Jr. Fair Rep), & Denice - alternate
 - ~Scholarship: Vickie, Kim, & Bill
 - ~Skillathon: Emily, Denice, & Vickie - alternate
 - ~Awards: Kierra, Kobe, Sarah, Denice, & Gary

E. 2026 Darke County Sheep Judges

- Evan Syner has agreed to do both the Jr. Breeding & Market show on the first Saturday again.
- Annie Schoetmer will be contacted by Chuck Willcox for the Monday shows, which include showmanship and the homegrown show.
- Tim Hubbard will be contacted by Chuck Willcox for the Tuesday shows, which include the Darke County born & bred and the jr. fair commercial ewe show.
- Chuck Willcox is going to contact Terry Burks for recommendations on additional judges to contact if the ones above don't work out. Chuck will also contact the above names to see if they're willing to judge and report back at the next meeting, where judges can then officially be voted on by the committee.

F. 2025 Rule Changes

- Betsy Petitjean printed out the current rules for the sheep department. The current rules were briefly looked over and discussed among one another. It was decided that Vickie Willcox is going to read through the rules and make the necessary changes that we discussed and report back at the next meeting. We decided to move forward with this and table the discussion of the 2025 rule changes for the next meeting.

The next Sheep Committee meeting will be held on December 14th at 6 p.m., with the location TBD.

Motion to adjourn by Sarah Drew, seconded by Jennifer Sachs.

Respectfully submitted by Kierra Reichert
Secretary, Darke County Junior Fair Sheep Committee